

Subject: POSSIBILITIES OF CLANDESTINE LIFE IN SOVIET ESTONIA.
Date of reporting: 22 April 1958.
Period of time covered by the source: 1940 - 1957.
Source: Newspaper "Sovetskaya Estonia", Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6,
dated from 3-nd to 8-th January, 1958.

The story, "The Wolf in Trap", is called a "documentary essay". It is aimed to counter the stories written by the Estonian emigrants which prize the "Brethren of Woods" instead of brandmarking them as murderers and bandites.

The story shows that PEOPLE MANAGED TO LIVE AND TO HIDE THEMSELVES IN ESTONIAN SWAMPS FROM 1944 TO 1957, THUS FOR 12 OR 13 YEARS WITHOUT BEING DETECTED OR BETRIED BY THOSE FROM WHOM THEY GOT THEIR FOOD.

Albert KOSENKRANIUS 46, a former member of Estonian organisations of self defense "Kaitseliit" (before 1940) and "Oma kaitse" (1941-1944), has lived clandestinely in Estonian woods during all the time of Soviet occupation of Estonia in 1940-1941, and since autumn 1944 up to 1957, when he was captured, in May 1957. It was not stated how he was apprehended. He was sentenced to death in October 1957.

The investigator made K. reveal his two "complices" Viktor OLDE and Ervin SAAR, as well as signals, time and place of their che-duled meeting with K. Both were killed by MGB-men when coming for that meeting, some 2 to 3 month after K was apprehended.

The investigator learned also about the "bunker" in the KIKEPERA swamp, SW Estonia, where K had lived in a well masked, low, 3 x 2 meter hut built of rough logs. He had lived there alone.

Julius STRANDBERG and his concubine Linda MUHU who had sheltered the three men from time to time, were also sentenced. Strandberg received 7 years, whereas Muhu was left free "because she has a young child".

According to the story the three men had robbed three farms and killed some people in the vicinity of their hiding places. They had been reported by one of the survivors of their attacks. A couple, also robbed by the trio, had been so scared that they left the place for the neighboring rayon, and went from there, without registering themselves out, for Tallinn, where, however, they had registered in again.

Reliability of the story: The statement concerning Kosenkranius' living there for this period and his sentence are probably true. Whether he "betried" his mates, or how the MGB learned about them, or how they got the information from K, remains a secret of the MGB.

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